

Kindly add the following new claims 115-119:

115. A near-field optical head according to claim 20; wherein the inverted conical or pyramid hole has a plurality of slant surfaces each having a different degree of slant from the others.

116. A near-field optical head according to claim 21; wherein the inverted conical or pyramid hole has a plurality of slant surfaces each having a different degree of slant from the others.

117. A near-field optical head according to claim 20; wherein the optical waveguide comprises a core and a clad disposed over the core.

118. A near-field optical head according to claim 21; wherein the optical waveguide comprises a core and a clad disposed over the core.

119. A near-field optical head according to claim 22; wherein the optical waveguide comprises a core and a clad disposed over the core.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Delete the abstract now of record and insert therefor the new abstract submitted herewith on a separate sheet.

AIW

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A near-field optical head has a planar substrate having a first surface, a second surface disposed opposite to the first surface, and an inverted conical or pyramidal hole extending through the first and second surfaces. The conical or pyramidal hole has at least one fine aperture formed at an apex thereof and is disposed on the first surface of the planar substrate. An optical waveguide is disposed on the second surface of the planar substrate for propagating light. A light reflection film is disposed in the optical waveguide for reflecting in the direction of the fine aperture light propagated through the optical waveguide .